

**City of Lincoln**  
**Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2016**

**Members Present:** Steve Eggland, Rebecca Henderson, Ed Hoffman, Jim Johnson, Laurie Thomas Lee, John Neal, Art Zygielbaum

**Members Absent (excused):** Paul Barnett, Trent Fellers, Helen Meeks

**City Staff:** Jon Taylor (for Diane Gonzolas), Steve Huggenberger, Jamie Wenz, David Young

**Allo/NelNet:** Brad Moline

**Time Warner Cable:** Jarad Falk, Tyler Hedrick

**WindStream:** Scott Barnett, Brad Hedrick

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by chair Ed Hoffman. Hoffman made note of the copy of the Open Meetings Act at the back of the room. Board members and guests introduced themselves. Hoffman noted that Andy Beecham has resigned from the board as he has moved out of town.

**Review of Agenda**

Agenda was presented. Zygielbaum moved to adopt agenda as presented; Lee seconded, motion passed 7-0.

**Minutes**

Minutes from April 28 were presented. Correction was made to show that Laurie Thomas Lee was absent (with an excused absence). Eggland moved approval as corrected; Zygielbaum seconded; motion passed 7-0.

Johnson noted that he had found an error in the January 2016 meeting minutes, which had been previously approved by the board. That month's meeting had included election of officers, and the minutes indicated that Jim Johnson had been elected both as Secretary and as Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair should have been listed as Art Zygielbaum; Johnson moved that we correct the January minutes to show this. John Neal seconded; motion passed 7-0.

**PEG Presentation by Jamie Wenz**

Jamie Wenz discussed the current status of the Government and Education wings of PEG (Public/Education/Government) Access in Lincoln. 5CityTV currently has City staff members Jamie Wenz, Beau Wolfe, Melissa Fuller, as well as some freelance workers. Government channels include Channel 5 (both TV and YouTube) and 10Health (both TV and YouTube). Educational Access airs on Channel 80.

2016 Upgrades included improvements to the control room, cameras, fiber optics, edit systems, field cameras, and remote production. Once funding is available through franchise funds the City plans to upgrade the remote trucks. There is now a tightrope system; 10 servers; automated scheduling; carousel display; live streaming; improved Video on Demand (VOD); and video indexing. Wenz is particularly happy about the indexing; this gives the public the opportunity, if they wish, to do things like searching through a City Council meeting and jumping right to the specific agenda item that they want rather than having to find it by trial and error.

Wenz invited members to stick around after the meeting for a tour of the studio.

Hoffman asked if LPS could do sports. He realizes there are contract issues with Time Warner/Charter. Hoffman thinks that would get more people interested in watching. Neal says they continue to look at all the sports programming they have. Wenz says that their production cost is \$2000 and someone would have to pay it. Neal said that there is an organization, NFHS, which works with schools to do programming, not just sporting but also academic. Hoffman asked Wenz to check into what could be done in terms of delayed programming. Wenz says that the big question would be who would sponsor it. Wenz and Neal will discuss it. Lee said that UNL is launching a sports major; that might fit in with these plans.

Hoffman asked how the equipment matches up with the equipment at Time Warner; Tyler Hedrick said it's pretty much the same.

Hoffman asked if Wenz had any ideas on how to increase viewership? Wenz said that viewers can be reached by live streaming, mobile programming, and VOD. Hoffman asked what the City is doing to advertise and get the word out. Wenz said that advertising requires a budget, and there's not a lot of money for that right now. We are reaching out with social media etc.

Zygielbaum asked what resources the City has in case of emergency. Wenz said that last winter in a couple of snow events we were able to remove some programming and put the carousel into an alert mode, showing parking bans, etc; that kind of thing. Zygielbaum said he's thinking more of a tornado or something that would cause damage to the studio. Wenz said that they can go

live from several places. Zygielbaum suggested that they might link to the emergency education center. Zygielbaum asked what would happen if the power goes out; are they able to stay on the air? Wenz said that he doesn't know. He thinks that it would be expensive to have backup capability.

## **Old Business**

### ***Bylaws***

Hoffman said that we should put off until next meeting. Hoffman and Huggenberger and Gonzolas will come up with a draft before then.

## **New Business**

### ***Public Access Channel(s)***

Hoffman wants to add to the agenda for our next meeting a discussion of whether there is an impediment to watching PEG channels, and what we could do to increase viewership.

### ***Discussion of written overview and explanation of Internet provider speeds***

Hoffman asked David Young to give us a presentation on Internet provider speeds; i.e. what does something like "25 MB of connectivity" mean? He thinks that an increased knowledge base in the community would increase the knowledge of what it means.

David Young said that the relevant issues are Internet speed vs Internet bandwidth. If we think of Internet as similar to automobile traffic, Internet speed would be like 4 cars at 60 miles per hour - the speed is still 60 mph; while Internet bandwidth would be like 4 cars at 60 miles per hour the speed is 240 mph.

Young said that we're talking about broadband; theoretically one could get 1 GB over DSL but that would take an investment. Bandwidth depends on the number of channels and the sensitivity on each end. Value of the service is determined by how much you pay for a megabit of Service; not many people understand what a megabit is. You want to understand the dollars that you're paying vs the megabits that you're receiving. There is software available for about \$4000; customers can run tests to show the megabits per dollar. The City of St Louis is doing it; there is a publicly funded fiber project in downtown St Louis. Hoffman said that we could use this as part of the performance review. Lee said that it depends on a lot of factors; for instance are you measuring it in the evening or at 2 a.m. or during the day? Young agreed; he said that you also get things like interference from the sun. Hoffman thought we might include the time as an input. Zygielbaum said that TWC gives him an "up-to" speed; it would be good to have a breakdown of speed. Hoffman said that he is not as concerned about the pricing per megabit as the performance itself. Hoffman said that we could add this to the agenda next time; Young will see if he can get in touch with someone in St Louis to find out more information.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### ***Online complaint form***

Neal said that he would like to have a replacement for Andy Beecham; Eggland volunteered to help. Neal will talk to him afterwards.

### ***ALLO nonprofits and wifi zones***

Young said that the free wifi zones are at least 18 months down the road; he thinks 2018.

Nonprofits: Huggenberger says that so far this is a one-sided conversation. Moline recommends that Ben Kiser be added to the conversations. Hoffman agreed that we need to involve Allo in the process. This is not a final document; they are looking at the merits of a Lottery/Validation vs Selection Process. Hoffman thinks that the Lottery/Validation process would be more workable. Zygielbaum thinks that one of the worries would be how to deal with 1000 organizations. Neal asked if there is a way to factor in the size of the group. Hoffman encourages board members to provide comments.

### ***Website Review***

Website: Henderson has talked to Diane Gonzolas; Gonzolas will see what can be done internally. Henderson said that she would like a replacement for Andy Beecham; Johnson volunteered to help.

### ***Allo report***

Brad Moline reported for Allo. They are building very rapidly; 10,000 entities with some sort of construction. In operational readiness testing, but his marketing department will not let him say when it is coming live. There are in excess of 150 employees in Lincoln right now; it's been a nice thing. They're in competition with other providers for employees much like they're in competition for services.

Moline wanted to assure us that Allo is still on the move. When reports came out that Google had pulled back in Kansas City; Moline's phone started ringing off the hook with people who wondered if Allo might do the same. Moline wants to assure us that Allo is committed to do what they have promised.

Moline commented that it is very difficult to track speeds in this industry. PSC in the state of Nebraska received a grant to measure speeds. It's very difficult because you have to consider wireless and phones; also the internal environment of the home. There are many factors. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested across the country to measure these statistics. Moline is sure that all carriers agree that they deliver the ultimate speed, but what happens inside the home is what affects speed more than anything. There are many layers that you are going to have to hit to get accurate statistics.

Hoffman asked if Allo's quoted speed was a minimum speed. Moline said yes; on a wired connection.

Hoffman asked if all of the buildings that are down by Lincoln High are going to be Allo. Moline said no; they will be in the 330 building (northeast corner) but the rest will be NelNet.

Eggland asked if Allo had thought about giving a blanket discount to just any 501(c)3. Hoffman said that's a contractual thing; Moline agreed.

#### **Time Warner Cable report**

Tyler Hedrick reported that they have dropped two cable programmers due to no changes to the program in a long time. Sometimes people get started on access programming but then have to drop it because it's a lot of work. Workshops: No orientations are currently scheduled. Equipment usage is up a producer; studio usage is steady.

Jarad Falk said that the Charter Communications takeover has gone as scheduled. They are still doing business as Time Warner Cable here in Lincoln and some other markets, but moving towards Charter. He now knows his own future; he'll be working in Kansas and Nebraska. He will go west of Seward tomorrow.

Zygielbaum asked about the digital conversion; he said it seems to have been the practice to go through full encryption. Falk said yes; Time Warner Cable does that too. Hoffman asked if there is a charge for a box. Falk: Doesn't know; how would they know how many TVs you have. Falk said he is still learning the new system; doesn't have a lot of answers right now.

Zygielbaum asked what happened during the Olympics when there was a cable outage. Falk thought it might have been an accidental fiber cut; however Brad Hedrick said that there was a lightning strike.

Hoffman asked if TWC has fiber in Lincoln; Falk said yes, all over.

#### **Windstream/Kinetic report**

Commenting further on the question about the disruption of service during the Olympics, Brad Hedrick said that a lightning strike at the KOLN/KGIN studio knocked out service. It was a broadcast issue, not a cable issue.

Hedrick said that Kinetic now has 160 nodes; they are further expanding coverage throughout the city. They are very pleased with sales. They have announced an overbuild of the City of Lincoln; 25000 homes by the end of 2017.

GFAST: Fiber to the Node technology will be introduced in Skyline View, Fountain Glen apartments. Up to 300 MB speed. Addresses an inside wiring issue. Infinera Technology - 1 GB service. He said that having bandwidth in your core network is essential to getting speed to subscribers.

#### **City report (PEG status)**

No further report; Wenz again invited Board members and guests to tour the studio following the meeting.

#### **Public Comments**

None.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Johnson, secretary